

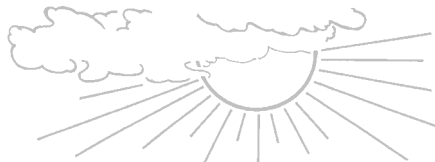


## Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, State Statistician



717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass

A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending August 31, 2003

**Fair week for Field Work:** There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 1 percent very short, 3 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 24 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included harvesting hay, oats, and potatoes; picking and canning fruit and vegetables; caring for livestock; fixing fences; and attending fairs

**Crops:** The corn condition changed little from last week, with 3 percent rated very poor, 6 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 40 percent good and 30 percent excellent. Ninety-six percent of corn has reached the silked stage, on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. Sixty-eight percent of corn has reached the dough stage, 11 and 8 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. The percent of corn reaching the dent stage advanced to 22 percent, 30 percent behind 2002 and 19 percent the five-year average. So far, six percent of corn silage has been harvested. The soybean crop condition improved slightly, with 2 percent rated as very poor, 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 43 percent good and 32 percent excellent. Ninety-five percent of the oat crop has been harvested, on pace with last year and the five-year average. The second cutting of alfalfa reached 93 percent complete, up slightly from last week but still slightly behind 2002. The third cutting of alfalfa reached 61 percent complete, up 10 percent from last week but still 17 percent behind last year. Fourth cutting of alfalfa reached 20 percent complete, up 11 percent from 1st week but 20 percent behind 2002. Sixty-nine percent of the second cutting of timothy clover was completed, up 12 percent from last week and 9 percent behind last year. Quality of hay made declined this week, with 10 percent rated as very poor, 10 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 29 percent good and 5 percent excellent. Tobacco harvesting advanced to 15 percent complete, 42 percent behind 2002 and 25 percent behind the five-year average. Fall plowing advanced to 8 percent complete, 6 percent behind 2002 and 9 percent behind the five-year average.

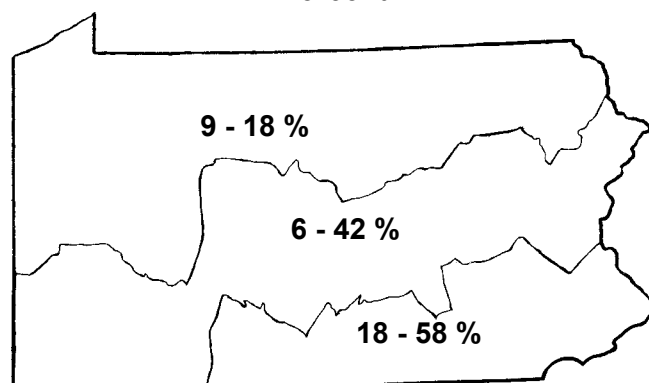
**Livestock:** With the continued rain, the condition of pasture land began to decrease over the week. Three percent of pasture was rated as very poor, 6 percent was poor, 35 percent was fair, 42 percent was good and 14 percent was excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetable:** Fruit harvesting progressed significantly this week. The percent of peaches harvested advanced to 80 percent complete, up 29 percent from last week but still 4 percent behind 2002. The percent of apples harvested advanced to 30 percent complete, up 12 percent from last week and on pace with 2002. The apple condition improved, with 1 percent rated as poor, 10 percent rated fair, 78 percent rated good and 11 percent rated excellent. Grape harvesting began this week, with percent harvested reaching 10 percent, slightly ahead of last year and the five-year average. The potato harvest advanced to 19 percent complete, 8 and 4 points behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively.

**U.S. As of August 24, 2003:** Highlights: Hot, dry weather continued in the Pacific Northwest, aiding small grain harvest activities but stressing pasture and rangeland. In the Southwest, above-normal temperatures aided crop development, but scattered showers were insufficient to relieve stress on dryland crops. In the northern Rocky Mountains, crops have endured 8 consecutive weeks of above-normal temperatures, but scattered showers brought some relief. The southern Rocky Mountain region also had hot weather and scattered showers. Hot weather continued to dominate most of the Great Plains, with the central part of

the region receiving moderate rainfall, providing only limited relief to the corn and soybean crops. The hot weather moved eastward into the Corn Belt, promoting crop development, but with no rain in most areas, stressed crops and increased irrigation needs. The Delta had scattered showers and above-normal temperatures. In the Southeast, moderate rainfall helped improve crop conditions slightly in most States, but some areas received too much rain, worsening conditions. Drier weather and above-normal temperatures were welcomed in the Ohio Valley and middle and northern Atlantic Coast States. Corn: Seventy-six percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, 4 percentage points behind last year's 80 percent and 6 points behind the 5-year average of 82 percent. Thirty-four percent of the crop had reached the dent stage, 8 points behind last year at this time and 12 points behind the 5-year average. Seven percent of the crop was mature, compared with 9 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Fields rapidly entered the dough stage in the Corn Belt but remained behind the normal pace in most States in the region. Denting was over 1 week behind the normal pace in Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Soybeans: Ninety-one percent of the acreage was setting pods, 1 percentage point behind last year and the 5-year average. Four percent of the crop was dropping leaves, 1 point behind last year but even with the 5-year average. Above-normal temperatures and drier weather in the Southeast promoted biological development, but fields in most States set pods well behind the average. Crop condition continued to decline in most States, especially in the Corn Belt. Barley was 82 percent harvested, 31 percentage points ahead of last year and 21 points ahead of the 5-year average. Hot, dry weather allowed harvest to progress rapidly with all States well ahead of their normal harvest pace. The oat crop advanced to 91 percent harvested, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. In the northern Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt, harvest was at or near completion. Pennsylvania farmers, taking advantage of the drier weather, harvested almost one-fourth of their crop, but remained 1 week behind normal.

## Pennsylvania: Corn Dent Percent



# Weather Data For Week Ending August 31, 2003

	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - August 31, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		BASE 40F
STATION	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
-----												
NORTHWEST												
Erie	86	53	71	+3	0.32	2	15.99	-2.27	66	2063	+14	3414
Franklin_AG	85	51	68	+2	2.18	5	26.91	+6.01	99	1885	-47	3282
Meadville	84	50	69	+4	1.78	5	24.35	+3.63	84	1899	+128	3284
Mercer	85	42	65	-2	2.31	4	30.23	+10.49	73	1625	-286	2997
Springboro	86	46	67	-2	1.30	3	21.81	+3.65	75	1773	-261	3119
Warren	86	48	68	+2	0.95	4	28.80	+8.01	77	1863	-16	3229
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	82	40	63	+3	1.11	4	25.19	+4.34	87	1468	+86	2789
Emporium	87	46	67	+4	1.13	3	27.64	+6.68	82	1922	+374	3322
Kane	80	42	61	-1	0.86	4	23.76	+2.63	70	1076	-282	2309
Laporte	81	45	64	-3	0.61	3	24.93	+5.70	78	1693	-236	3014
Lock_Haven	90	52	71	+4	0.86	4	21.05	+2.07	72	2217	+179	3638
Port_Allegany	85	42	64	+2	1.30	2	26.78	+7.12	73	1603	+82	2925
RenoVo	87	49	69	+3	0.88	3	21.50	+2.52	81	2087	+49	3503
Ridgway	85	41	65	+3	0.98	3	21.31	+0.35	70	1602	+54	2964
Stevenson_Dam	88	46	68	+5	0.80	4	23.70	+2.74	86	1915	+367	3313
Towanda	87	49	68	+2	0.38	2	23.62	+7.68	90	1909	-36	3274
Wellsboro	83	45	65	+3	0.45	3	21.99	+5.96	73	1625	+158	2947
Williamsport_AP	88	50	71	+3	0.31	3	23.41	+4.63	72	2280	+34	3701
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	82	45	65	+0	0.28	2	19.99	+1.80	65	1721	+53	3085
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	48	69	+2	0.21	2	23.45	+5.74	68	2167	+32	3561
Susquehanna	87	49	68	+5	0.89	1	23.02	+3.55	65	2111	+518	3483
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	85	48	69	+2	3.50	5	24.67	+4.82	80	2021	+22	3450
New_Castle	89	50	71	+4	2.82	5	29.13	+11.18	72	2166	+166	3602
Slippery_Rock	89	52	70	+6	4.12	5	30.16	+10.86	79	2068	+262	3496
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	85	56	71	+4	1.66	5	21.08	+3.85	89	2089	-47	3490
Du_Bois	84	47	68	+3	3.00	5	26.33	+6.41	92	1807	-52	3186
Lewistown	88	57	73	+4	1.96	5	22.59	+3.95	69	2363	+24	3794
Middletown	86	58	74	+4	1.30	4	26.03	+7.78	80	2567	-67	4003
Prince_Gallitzi	83	47	69	+5	3.74	6	23.46	+1.30	84	1904	+186	3277
Selinsgrove	89	51	71	+4	0.44	3	22.73	+3.71	75	2216	+23	3631
State_College_P	85	54	71	+4	3.69	5	26.66	+9.29	78	2193	+78	3607
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	86	54	73	+3	0.15	3	23.45	+3.56	71	2437	+22	3855
Lehighnton	82	51	67	-3	0.59	4	27.40	+7.66	84	2118	-219	3515
Matamoras	82	45	65	-3	0.14	2	21.04	+0.97	73	1857	-260	3218
Tobyhanna	86	52	72	+10	0.28	2	28.48	+7.26	78	2277	+810	3675
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	57	74	+6	1.99	4	20.24	+1.79	84	2433	+291	3895
Derry	85	51	71	+4	3.22	4	29.24	+10.06	75	2147	+124	3562
Meyersdale	85	43	67	+0	1.52	4	23.25	+2.33	82	1626	-359	2981
Mount_Pleasant	85	48	71	+5	2.37	4	26.55	+4.74	83	2110	+305	3544
Pittsburgh_Intl	86	56	73	+5	1.91	4	21.38	+3.97	76	2386	+146	3843
Rector	87	50	70	+5	1.37	5	25.29	+3.48	75	2138	+333	3565
Waynesburg	85	51	71	+4	3.64	4	31.98	+12.84	85	2216	+138	3665
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	87	55	73	+3	1.30	4	26.42	+9.41	89	2415	-158	3849
Everett	87	46	70	+2	0.28	2	22.64	+5.84	82	2149	+29	3568
Hanover	87	54	73	+3	0.60	4	25.15	+8.14	69	2431	-142	3863
Shippensburg	90	58	75	+4	1.45	4	23.21	+6.50	68	2556	+1	3997
South_Mountain	83	49	70	+3	0.88	4	27.08	+9.85	74	1952	-177	3330
York_AP	90	55	74	+3	0.80	4	20.03	+1.43	77	2443	-117	3875
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	91	55	73	+5	0.46	3	27.19	+7.84	72	2593	+288	4027
Hamburg	87	54	72	+5	0.34	4	24.84	+2.44	75	2376	+260	3794
Hopewell	85	56	72	-1	0.65	3	24.33	+4.23	73	2319	-385	3721
Lancaster_AP	85	57	73	+4	0.75	4	19.15	-0.48	71	2438	+4	3865
Neshaminy_Falls	90	52	75	+5	2.48	2	20.80	-1.71	67	2615	+207	4038
New_Holland	86	54	74	+3	1.04	4	23.13	+3.50	75	2430	-4	3851
Philadelphia	91	63	78	+5	0.51	2	19.78	+0.59	64	2958	+179	4413
Philadelphia_NE	91	60	77	+4	0.91	2	18.64	-0.55	71	2718	-61	4155
Reading_AP	86	54	73	+3	0.30	1	20.23	-0.60	71	2522	+127	3944
Valley_Forge_Na	90	48	72	+0	0.91	4	25.49	+5.39	73	2385	-319	3796
Willow_Grove	86	60	75	+5	1.09	3	18.10	-4.41	63	2525	+117	3947

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2003: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

# INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

"Overall not a bad week for field work. Quite a bit of hay was made during the first part of the week. Farmers are checking their corn fields for denting in hopes of starting to fill silos soon."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Another good week for field work."

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

"Rains continue to come at inopportune times. Ground is saturated again. Haymaking continues to be an adventure. Corn is yellowing due to saturated soils."

- David Stratton,  
Potter/McKean/Cameron Counties

"A good weather week. Small grain harvest is winding down. Baling second cutting and straw. Corn harvest is just a couple weeks away. Yields look good."

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"Good week for field work, rain 2 days, 1 1/2" total accumulation."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"Another 4 inches of rain this week. Too wet to do anything."

- Marina Kemper, Huntington County

"Field work continues to be difficult with scattered showers and storms. Dry baled hay is very scarce. Most of the corn and soybeans are looking excellent but still need well into September to mature properly."

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Spotty showers in the growing area allowed for poor week for making hay. Corn is still growing well and is maturing but still high in moisture thus delaying silage harvest. Beans are looking good, but not likely to be a huge crop due to lack of pods. Hay and pasture are doing excellent. Peaches were an excellent crop this year and apples appear to be largest crop in several years. Quality is good however a few small blocks have had hail damage."

- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

"Soil conditions are absolutely unbelievable. Picking up bales in some places is still not possible without tracking in old established hay sods."

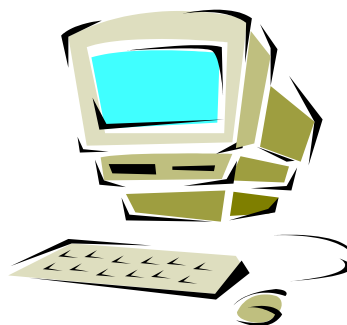
- Russ McLucas, Fulton County

"Tobacco harvest pace is picking up and will be in full swing next week weather permitting. Reports are coming in on the lack of soybean on some of the field which look very good vegetatively. Some have started opening corn fields for silage but corn maturity is still 2-3 week behind. Some fields which I have checked seem to have had poor pollination. It appears that not enough heat units remain in the growing season to get many corn crops to grain maturity."

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"A fairly dry week again allowed more hay to be made, however a storm Wednesday caught a few with hay laying. Corn and beans are doing quite well; we still need above average GDD to get the late corn to maturity, corn planted timely is starting to dent. Sweet corn for Labor Day was difficult to find due to very wet conditions in mid June."

- Andrew Frankenfield,  
Montgomery County



### PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 31, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Fall plowing	8	14	17
Corn, silk	96	92	96
Corn, dough	68	79	76
Corn, dent	22	52	41
Corn silage, harvested	6	38	18
Oats, harvested	95	95	94
Tobacco, harvested	15	57	40
Potatoes, harvested	19	27	23
Alfalfa, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	93	95	96
Alfalfa, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	61	78	72
Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	20	40	29
Timothy clover, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	69	78	74
Peaches, harvested	80	84	88
Apples, harvested	30	28	26
Grapes, harvested	10	6	5

### PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 31, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	3	6	21	40	30
Soybeans	2	4	19	43	32
Quality of hay made	10	10	46	29	5
Pasture conditions	3	6	35	42	14
Apples	0	1	10	78	11

**NOTICE:** Brought to you once every **five** years, we proudly announce the newest issue of the **Pennsylvania Orchard & Vineyard** report, which was released on the Internet on August 28, 2003.

This 64-page report contains information about trees/vines and acres by variety, by county, etc. For the 2002 and 1997 issues of this report, click on "Publications & Releases" at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/)

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE  
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USDA  
PERMIT NO. G-38